

SEAHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY

CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

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**J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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## SEAHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chairman of the Council—Councillor H. Oliver  
Chairman of Health Committee—Councillor J. Goodwin.

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### Members of the Council

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„ J. GRAHAM	„ *T. WILLIAMS
„ R. A. JOBES	„ N. L. YOUNG

\* Members of the Health Committee.

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### Members of the Area Health (No. 5) Sub-Committee

Councillors—

Mrs. E. CLENELL, J. B. FRANKLIN, J. GOODWIN,  
J. J. E. MORTIMER

Clerk of the Council ..... F. A. ALDERSON  
Treasurer ..... R. W. POTTS  
Engineer and Surveyor ..... A. BARRATT, C.Eng.M.I.Mun.E.  
Housing Manager ..... J. R. RICHARDSON, A.I.H.M.

## **Public Health Staff**

Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector—

A. KENYON, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector—

N. TAYLOR, Resigned, August, 1968.

T. PARKIN, Appointed, October, 1968.

Clerk in Health Department—

Miss J. PARKER.

Rodent Operator—

T. S. TODD.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Seaham Urban District for the year 1968.

The general health of the community is satisfactory although the natural rate of growth remains disappointingly small. Progress in the department is curtailed by the lack of professional staff.

The work undertaken is described in the various sections. That relating to activities of the inspectorial staff has been compiled by the Senior Public Health Inspector and contributions from the Engineer and Surveyor have been included.

May I once again record my thanks to the members and officers of the Council for their continued support during the year.


I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. A. RODGERS,

Medical Officer of Health.





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## SECTION I

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres — 2,469.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid 1968 — 25,030.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968) according to the Rate Books—8,022.

Rateable Value—£614,146.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£2,220.

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### LIVE BIRTHS

					Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	334	184	150
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	38	18	20
Total	...	...	...	...	372	202	170

#### Birth Rates—

Legitimate ....	13.34	per 1,000 estimated resident population.
Illegitimate	1.52	„ „ „ „
Total ....	14.86	„ „ „ „

#### STILL BIRTHS

					Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Total	...	...	...	...	7	2	5

**STILL BIRTH RATE :** 18.47 per 1,000 live and still births

#### DEATHS

Total.	Male.	Female.
299	159	140

**DEATH RATE :** 11.9 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

#### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths.	Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ....	1	2.67

## INFANT MORTALITY

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under one year ....	6	5	1

**Infant Mortality Rate**—16.13 per 1,000 live births.

## NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under 1 month ....	2	1	1

**Neo-Natal Mortality Rate**—5.37 per 1,000 live births.

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## CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS

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Age	Sex	Cause
1 day	F	Extreme Prematurity.
7 days	M	Pneumonia, Prematurity.
2 months	M	Broncho-Pneumonia.
3 months	M	Broncho-Pneumonia.
4 months	M	Cerebral Haemorrhage, Congenital Cerebral Aneurism.
4½ months	M	Broncho-Pneumonia.

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Mortality of Legitimate Infants : 11.97 per 1,000 legitimate live births.

Mortality of Illegitimate Infants : 52.63 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

The causes of the greatest mortality during 1968 were :—

Cardio-Vascular Diseases	....	....	....	....	156
Cancer	....	....	....	....	43
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	33
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	22
Accidental Deaths (inc. Motor Vehicle Accidents)					4

## DEATHS DUE TO CANCER OF THE LUNG

Age (years)						Male	Female.
15-24	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25-34	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
35-44	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
45-54	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
55-64	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
65-74	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
75 and over	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
TOTALS (All ages)	...	...	...	...	...	4	3

**BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES IN THE YEAR 1968.**  
**England & Wales and Seaham**

	Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
	Live Births	Still- Births	Deaths (all ages)	Deaths under 1 year	Maternal Deaths	Deaths under 1 mth.	Perinatal Mortality
England and Wales ...	16.9	14.3	11.9	18.3	0.24	12.3	24.7
Seaham ... ..	14.86	18.47	11.9	16.13	2.67	5.37	21.11

**CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS AND CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968.**

	Quarter	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid fever	Para- typhoid fever	Acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis		Food poisoning	Tuberculosis		
								Paralytic	Non- paralytic		Respirat'ry	Meninges and C.N.S.	Other
England and Wales	First	4,695	—	24	10	3,490	4,759	4	1	839	2,783	22	469
	Second	3,896	—	30	13	1,195	5,499	—	—	1,127	2,926	30	559
	Third	2,356	7	40	48	696	3,854	8	3	2,151	2,637	24	609
	Fourth	3,950	8	24	18	—	5,390	7	1	1,790	2,361	16	548
Total		14,897	15	118	89	5,381	19,502	19	5	5,907	10,707	92	2,185
Case Rate		0.307	0.0003	0.0024	0.0018	0.111	0.401	0.0004	0.0001	0.122	0.220	0.0019	0.045
Seaham	First	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
	Second	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
	Third	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
	Fourth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1
Total		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	1
Case Rate		0.16	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1.079	Nil.	0.040

Infective Hepatitis— England & Wales :	Third Quarter ...	5,770	Infective Hepatitis— Seaham :	Third Quarter ...	3
	Fourth Quarter ...	5,809		Fourth Quarter ...	—
	Total ...	11,579		Total ...	3
	Case Rate ...	0.238		Case Rate ...	0.119



COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1949-1968

(The Birth Rate and Death Rate are shown corrected by the Registrar General's comparability factors of 0.99 and 1.26 respectively for 1968).

Year		Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1949	...	25,900	21.50	10.30	46.67
1950	...	25,990	19.12	10.65	42.25
1951	...	25,920	18.17	11.26	21.23
1952	...	25,660	17.73	10.65	26.03
1953	...	25,690	20.35	11.57	27.61
1954	...	25,650	18.64	12.30	20.70
1955	...	25,740	18.88	11.94	44.80
1956	...	25,940	19.39	12.57	27.56
1957	...	26,130	19.25	13.79	21.65
1958	...	26,320	20.80	14.16	25.32
1959	...	26,440	19.69	13.88	20.91
1960	...	26,410	18.07	13.75	20.20
1961	...	25,660	18.71	14.41	35.05
1962	...	25,630	19.12	15.07	22.22
1963	...	25,570	17.42	16.04	20.00
1964	...	25,470	17.90	12.86	15.10
1965	...	25,470	17.41	15.20	20.08
1966	...	25,330	14.79	14.25	25.87
1967	...	25,200	15.17	14.11	33.67
1968	....	25,030	14.71	15.11	16.13

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE  
DURING 1968

CAUSE OF DEATH	SEX	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	3
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ..	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Benign & other unspecified Neoplasms	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diabetes Mellitus .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases ....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Anaemias .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hypertensive disease .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ischaemic Heart disease .....	M	43	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	10	12	13	13
	F	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	14	15	15
Other forms of Heart disease .....	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	3	3
Cerebrovascular disease .....	M	23	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	10	10
	F	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	11	11
Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia .....	M	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	6
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	M	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	16	3	3
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	4
Asthma .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Peptic Ulcer .....	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of the Liver .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of the Digestive System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Disease, Genito-Urinary System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies .....	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents .....	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suicide & Other Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL—ALL CAUSES .....	M	159	1	4	—	—	—	1	4	10	32	55	52
	F	140	1	—	1	—	2	—	3	11	20	43	59
GRAND TOTAL .....		299	2	4	1	—	2	1	7	21	52	98	111

**Confirmed Cases of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases, 1968**  
 (other than Tuberculosis)

Numbers originally notified.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
<b>Total</b> ( <i>all ages</i> )	4	—	135	1
Under 1 yr.	—	—	11	—
1-2 years	—	—	21	—
2-3 years	—	—	23	—
3-4 years	—	—	22	—
4-5 years	—	—	17	—
5-9 years	1	—	34	—
10-14 years	2	—	4	1
15-24 years	1	—	3	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ( <i>all ages</i> )	4	—	135	1



## TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the new cases and deaths for the Urban District of Seaham during 1968 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				TOTAL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „ ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „ ...	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-54 „ ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-64 „ ...	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ( <i>all ages</i> )	21	6	—	1	3	—	—	—

## SECTION III

### DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS IMMUNISATION

#### DIPHTHERIA (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1968	1 to 4 1964-1967	5 to 14 1954-1963	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	35	157	97	289
Reinforcing Injections ...	—	87	267	354

#### WHOOPING COUGH (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1968	1 to 4 1964-1967	5 to 14 1954-1963	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	33	156	7	196
Reinforcing Injections ...	—	86	14	100

#### TETANUS (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1968	1 to 4 1964-1967	5-14 1954-1963	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	35	157	108	300
Reinforcing Injections ...	—	87	272	359

## SMALLPOX VACCINATION

There were no cases of smallpox in the District during 1968, and a table is given below showing the number and ages of children vaccinated during the year.

Ages at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Vaccinated .....	7	99	9	3	—	118
Re-vaccinated .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

## B.C.G. VACCINATION—School Scheme (1968)

Total Skin Tested	Positive Reactors	Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.	No. absent at time of reading
371	29	310	27

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1968.

### (a) SALK

Those persons given a primary course of 2 injections of Salk vaccine :—

Persons born in year :—	1968	1967	1966	1965	1947-64	1937-46	Others	Total
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### (b) ORAL

Those persons given a primary course of 3 doses of oral vaccine :—

Persons born in year:—	1968	1967	1966	1965	1947-64	1937-46	Others	Total
	32	173	21	15	80	—	—	321

In addition 277 persons received a booster of oral vaccine.

## SECTION IV

### GENERAL :

Complaints and requests for services of the health department staff received during the year numbered 580 and was about equal to that for 1967. Details are as follows :—

Rats .....	143	Mice .....	160
Cockroaches .....	117	Other insect pests .....	33
Drains .....	110	Miscellaneous .....	17

1968 was also a record year for complaints concerning food to which reference will be made later in the report.

Thirty-three stool specimens and nine ice-cream samples were collected and delivered to the Public Health Laboratory at Sunderland for bacteriological examination.

### HOUSING :

#### Slum Clearance :

A local public enquiry was held on 30th July concerning fifteen houses in the Cornelia Terrace (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1967. This was later confirmed by the Minister, subject to the exclusion of three houses from the Order which were considered fit for human habitation.

In addition, one house and one dwelling were closed on orders made by the Council under part two of the Housing Act, 1957. A further twenty-two houses in clearance areas were demolished during the year.

#### Houses Erected and Improved :

The number of houses erected in Seaham during 1968 was 38, 33 by the Council and 5 by private persons.

A new departure from the building of houses was the start made on the improvement of some fifteen houses in Frederick Street, which have been purchased by the Council in previous years. This has entailed the redesigning of the interior, the demolition of out-buildings and boundary walls, and the installation of central heating, hot water supply, bath, sink unit and internal watercloset. The ultimate result is that these substantially built twilight properties have now been given a new lease of life, and will provide modern accommodation at a cost less than that of building new houses.



## Improvement Grants

	No. of Separate Houses	
	Discretionary Grants	Standard Grants
Applications submitted to L.A. ....	97	9
Applications rejected by L.A. ....	—	—
No. of applications approved since inception of the scheme .....	807	172
Total Number of grants paid since inception of the scheme .....	684	162

## House Repairs

Through shortage of staff greater use has been made of Section 26 of the Public Health Act, 1961 to secure essential repairs to houses in preference to the laborious procedure under the Housing Act, 1957. Houses repaired during the year are as follows :—

As a result of informal action .....	3
By owner as a result of statutory notices .....	2
By the Council in default .....	1

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

### FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

#### (1) Food Premises

The number of food premises in the urban district at the end of 1968 was 161, which is a reduction of 4 on the previous year.

In accordance with paragraph 8(b) of circular 1/69, the various categories of food premises are as follows :—

Trade	No. of Premises	Reg. 16 Comply	Reg. 19 Applies	Reg. 19 Comply
Grocery — General .....	67	67	28	27
Butchery .....	15	15	15	14
Bakeries .....	11	10	11	11
Flour Confectionery .....	10	9	10	10
Sugar Confectionery .....	15	15	—	—
Fruiterer and Greengrocer .....	12	12	—	—
Fried Fish and Chips .....	10	4	10	10
Wet Fish .....	1	1	1	1
Cafes and Snack Bars .....	5	4	5	5
Canteens, Industrial .....	4	4	4	4
School Meals Kitchens .....	4	4	4	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	2	2	2	2
Chemists .....	5	3	5	5

The number of inspections carried out during the year was 210.

Reference must be made to a lower standard of hygiene found in some food premises during the course of inspection. Some occupiers have had to be prompted in this respect, and quite often these have not been accepted kindly. Another aspect in the inspection of food premises is a shortcoming of the Food Hygiene Regulations in which decoration cannot be insisted upon. Although certain shops were found to be clean, they nevertheless, presented a shabby and neglected appearance through lack of good internal and external decoration. Even shops owned by the Council were not immune in this respect.

**(2) Registered Premises**

The number of food premises registered under sections 16 to 18 of the Food and Drugs Act at the end of the year was 72. This shows an increase of two over the previous year. Details are as follows :—

For the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	2
For the sale of ice-cream .....	55
For the manufacture of sausages, etc. ....	15

**(3) Food Sampling**

Ice-cream was the only food sampled during the year and, of the nine samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Sunderland, for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, six were Grade 2 and three Grade 4.

**(4) Fish and Chip Shops**

There are ten shops in the Urban District retailing this popular commodity, although there is now a wider range of items sold in some of the shops, such as cooked chicken, meat pies, pasties, peas and beans. The standard of cleanliness in all the shops is good, but the structural condition of some is poor, whilst others are carried on in premises which are too small for the amount of business transacted.

**(5) Cafes and Snack Bars**

There was again no change in the number of these establishments namely two cafes and three snack bars. The general standard of cleanliness was good. In two instances here, the working area is rather cramped.

## **(6) Canteens and School Kitchens**

There are four industrial canteens, one at each of the three collieries and a fourth at a clothing factory. There are also four school meals kitchens. The standard of hygiene in all these premises is very good.

## **(7) Mobile Shops**

There were no inspections of mobile shops during the year. One co-operative society withdrew their fleet of mobile grocery shops from street trading to concentrate business from their various branch shops.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

This was certainly a record year for complaints concerning the purchase of food which was subsequently found in some way to be unsatisfactory. In all a total of sixteen complaints were received.

Four of the complaints were dealt with summarily as follows : —

1. A lollipop containing a metal bolt. The defendant pleaded “not guilty”, but the case was proved and he was fined three pounds and three guineas costs. In this case the defendant failed to avail himself of the special defence under section 113 (1) of the Act.
2. A packet of potato crisps containing a piece of metal. In this case the manufacturers were prosecuted and pleaded “guilty”. A fine of twenty guineas and five guineas costs were imposed.
3. Tomato Patties unfit for human consumption, taken under section 8. Although evidence given by the Council’s representatives was not disputed, doubts were raised by the defending solicitor as to the manner in which the patties had been dealt with between the time of purchase and cooking them, a lapse of about six hours. After retiring the magistrates felt there was a doubt, and the case was dismissed.
4. A jar of black cherry jam containing a portion of a cigarette. A plea of “guilty” was entered in this case by the manufacturers who were fined ten pounds and three guineas costs.

The remaining twelve complaints were dealt with in various ways because the complainants usually expressed a dislike of being involved in legal proceedings. In most cases the complainant simply



wanted something done about it. These were therefore dealt with as follows :—

1. A tin of processed peas containing a caterpillar. This was a most unusual case because the manufacturer asserted after consultation with an entomologist that this particular insect was not active during the months that processed peas are produced.
2. Chocolate Crispy containing a fly maggot. In this case it was not certain, after investigation, that the maggot had got into the crispy at the bakery from which it was produced.
3. Potato crisps in a mouldy condition. Following a report from the public analyst and in turn, reporting to the Council, a warning letter was sent to the retailer.
4. Tin of Apricots containing a wasp. As this was a foreign product, the complaint was taken up with the importers.
5. Box of Processed Cheese in mouldy condition. The complainant in this case was an aged person who would have been unreliable as a witness. The retailer was warned concerning proper rotation of stock.
6. Packet of two sponge puddings found to be mouldy. Here again the retailer was interviewed and warned concerning the proper rotation of stock.
7. Wrapped loaf containing a caterpillar. On investigation bread found to be stored near raw vegetables.
8. Egg and Ham Pie sweet tasting. A report of the Public analyst indicated an excess of sweetening matter in the pastry probably due to the manufacturer making the pie pastry on the same table as sugar confectionery.
9. Bar of chocolate containing a strand of hair. This was taken up with the manufacturers who could give no account as to how the hair got into the chocolate.
10. Beef Pie found to contain mould. Complaint taken to retailer and advice given on proper rotation of stock.
11. Wrapped loaf found to contain mould. In this case the loaf had been purchased several days before being opened.
12. Tin of Sago Pudding alleged to have caused illness and sour tasting. The remaining contents of the tin were taken to the public analyst who later reported that he could find nothing wrong.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of general inspections carried out and an analysis of contraventions found during the course of inspection are as follows :—

### Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises—	Number of premises newly registered during the year	No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices .....	—	24	14
Retail Shops .....	2	128	110
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .....	—	21	11
Fuel Storage ...	—	—	—
Totals .....	2	174	135

### Analysis of Contraventions :

Section	4—Cleanliness .....	1
„	5—Overcrowding .....	—
„	6—Temperature .....	6
„	7—Ventilation .....	—
„	8—Lighting .....	1
„	9—Sanitary Conveniences .....	2
„	10—Washing Facilities .....	2
„	11—Supply of drinking water .....	—
„	12—Accommodation for Clothing .....	1
„	13—Sitting Facilities .....	1
„	14—Seats for Sedentary Workers .....	—
„	15—Eating Facilities .....	—
„	16—Floors, passages and stairs .....	3
„	17—Fencing of exposed parts of machinery .....	—
„	18—Protection of young persons .....	—
„	19—Training of persons working at dangerous machinery .....	—
„	23—Prohibition of heavy work .....	—
„	24—First-aid General Provisions .....	6
„	50—Abstract of the Act not exhibited .....	8

## **Section 48.**

Three accidents were reported during the year, two being of a minor nature, the third more serious. This latter accident occurred as a shop assistant, before closing for the day, was placing a coin-operated cigarette machine in the door entrance when the machine fell through the shop window and the ridge caught her left foot resulting in a bone being splintered with associated bruising.

### **Exemptions :**

No applications for exemption under the Act were made.

### **Water Supply :**

All water services in the urban district are supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The water appears to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity, and no complaints of any kind were received during the year. All dwelling houses (8,022) have an internal piped supply direct from the Company's mains, apart from a few in the Harbour area where this terminates as a standpipe in the yard. These, however, should disappear in time as the houses are improved.

### **Swimming Baths :**

There are no public swimming baths in the urban district but facilities are available to members of the Seaham Harbour Swimming Club and at Dawdon Colliery. There is also a swimming bath at the Northlea Grammar Technical School.

### **Rivers and Streams**

There are two main streams in the area which flow through Dawdon Dene and Seaham Dene respectively, before discharging into the sea. No complaints of flooding or nuisance was reported during the year.

### **Clean Air Act, 1956**

The provisions of this Act have not yet been implemented by the Council. An amending Act to supplement and extend the provisions of the 1956 Act was passed during the year. This contains a provision which authorises the Minister to impose a measure of compulsion on a local authority after due consultation, to make smoke control orders.



## RODENT CONTROL, DISINFESTATION & DISINFECTION SERVICE.

This is one of the lesser but equally important services carried out by the Health Department for the control of rats and mice and other vermin, together with the eradication of insect pests and fumigations.

### RODENT CONTROL

#### Surface Infestations :

Complaints regarding rats and mice received during the year was as follows :—

Common Rat	Mice	Total
143	160	303

Of this total 24 concerning rats and 3 of mice were unfounded.

In the course of survey, additional properties were inspected as follows :—

Common Rat	Mice	Total
20	5	25

Of this total 7 concerning rats only were unfounded.

The total number of inspections including re-inspections carried out during the year was 737.

Once again reference must be made to the acts of persons who put out bread and other food with the object of feeding the birds, little knowing that this food is also attractive to rats. This has often been found to be the cause of rat infestations when complaints have been investigated.

#### Insect Pests :

The following complaints and requests for assistance in the eradication of insect pests were dealt with by the department as follows :—

Cockroaches .....	123	Woodlice .....	10
Ants .....	3	Clover Mite .....	2
Earwigs .....	11	Wasps .....	5
House Flies .....	2		

In addition, twelve houses were fumigated at the request of the tenants.

#### Factories

The number of factories registered at the end of the year was 38, showing a reduction of one on the previous year. Notifications received from H.M. Inspector of Factories were attended to. Details of inspections, etc., are given in a table at the end of the report.

**Pet Animals Act, 1951**

One pet shop only is licensed under this Act and conforms satisfactorily to the provisions of the Act.

**Common Lodging Houses**

There are no common lodging houses in the Urban District.

**SECTION V**  
**REFUSE DISPOSAL, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND STREET CLEANSING**

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following information on the above matters which are under his control.

**Sewage Disposal.**

No treatment is carried out to the sewage which, after collection, is discharged direct to the sea from three main outfalls.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Collection is carried out by direct labour using specially constructed vehicles. Disposal is by controlled tipping on sites leased to the Council. During the year 8,363 tons, 10 cwts. of house and trade refuse were collected and disposed of, together with 88 tons, 18 cwts., 3 qrs. of wastepaper.

**Street Cleansing.**

During the year 14,982 gullies were cleansed and flushed on U.D.C. highways.

A mechanical roadsweeper and pedestrian controlled barrow are used for the cleansing of roads and streets.

**SECTION VI**  
**SEAHAM RIPARIAN HEALTH AUTHORITY**

The amount of shipping entering the district during the year was as follows :—

	Number	Nett Register Tonnage
Foreign Ports .....	13	7,565
Home Ports .....	417	265,279
TOTAL .....	430	272,844

The principal import continues to be timber, and the principal exports coal, spent-oxide, moulding sand and agricultural limestone. No passengers were carried on ships entering the port during the year, and no cases of infectious disease were notified.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	4	3	—		—
	.....	.....	.....		.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	19	—		—
	.....	.....	.....		.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	—	—	—		—
	.....	.....	.....		.....
TOTAL ..	38	22	—		—

# 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL...	—	—	—	—	—

There are no outworkers in the Urban District.







